

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A method for matching products to a textual request, comprising the steps of:
 - 2 (a) receiving a request for information about an item;
 - 3 (b) parsing the request for determining attributes of the item;
 - 4 (c) searching a database for selecting a plurality of products each having the
5 attributes of the item;
 - 6 (d) retrieving information about the products ; and
 - 7 (e) outputting the information about the products.
- 1 2. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the plurality of products have been pre-
2 associated based on the attributes.
- 1 3. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the information about the products
2 includes a name of a vendor of the products.
- 1 4. A method as recited in claim 3, wherein criteria for selecting the vendor include
2 at least one of price of the products, proximity to the vendor, availability of
3 delivery, whether the products are in stock, wrapping availability, shipping
4 availability, tracking availability, and a loyalty program.
- 1 5. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the information about the products
2 includes a name of a plurality of vendors of the products.
- 1 6. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein a promotional offer is output with the
2 information about the products.

- 1 7. A computer program product for matching products to a textual request,
2 comprising:
3 (a) computer code for receiving a request for information about an item;
4 (b) computer code for parsing the request for determining attributes of the item;
5 (c) computer code for searching a database for selecting a plurality of products each
6 having the attributes of the item;
7 (d) computer code for retrieving information about the products ; and
8 (e) computer code for outputting the information about the products.

- 1 8. A computer program product as recited in claim 7, wherein the plurality of
2 products have been pre-associated based on the attributes.

- 1 9. A computer program product as recited in claim 7, wherein the information
2 about the products includes a name of a vendor of the products.

- 1 10. A computer program product as recited in claim 9, wherein criteria for selecting
2 the vendor include at least one of price of the products, proximity to the vendor,
3 availability of delivery, whether the products are in stock, wrapping availability,
4 shipping availability, tracking availability, and a loyalty program.

- 1 11. A computer program product as recited in claim 7, wherein the information
2 about the products includes a name of a plurality of vendors of the products.

- 1 12. A computer program product as recited in claim 7, wherein a promotional offer
2 is output with the information about the products.

- 1 13. A system for matching products to a textual request, comprising:
2 (a) logic for receiving a request for information about an item;
3 (b) logic for parsing the request for determining attributes of the item;

- 4 (c) logic for searching a database for selecting a plurality of products each having
5 the attributes of the item;
6 (d) logic for retrieving information about the products ; and
7 (e) logic for outputting the information about the products.

1 14. A system as recited in claim 13, wherein the plurality of products have been pre-
2 associated based on the attributes.

1 15. A system as recited in claim 13, wherein the information about the products
2 includes a name of a vendor of the products.

1 16. A system as recited in claim 15, wherein criteria for selecting the vendor include
2 at least one of price of the products, proximity to the vendor, availability of
3 delivery, whether the products are in stock, wrapping availability, shipping
4 availability, tracking availability, and a loyalty program.

1 17. A system as recited in claim 13, wherein the information about the products
2 includes a name of a plurality of vendors of the products.

1 18. A system as recited in claim 13, wherein a promotional offer is output with the
2 information about the products.